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Turner Looks Good on Paper

President Carter's selection of his Annapolis classmate, Adm. Stansfield Turner, to head the Central Intelligence Agency is probably a wise choice.

The admiral, a Rhodes scholar as well as an experienced naval commander, deserves to be confirmed by the Senate and given a fair chance to demonstrate his competence to head the nation's intelligence community.

Adm. Turner's background, both academic and military, has given him an appreciation of the importance of intelligence in a suspicious world. In President Carter's view, the

admiral is likely also to run a "tight ship" at the CIA, avoiding the covert operations excesses of recent years. This is what the nation wants, and this is what President Carter has promised, at least implicitly, to give it.

Adm. Stansfield Turner appears to be a much sounder choice for Director of Central Intelligence than was the President's first pick, Theodore Sorensen, a former presidential speechwriter of no particular experience in the craft of intelligence. If Adm. Turner performs as well as his credentials suggest he should, the nation will be well served.